

American

NEWS & VIEWS

A Weekly Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy

October 19, 2012

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Clinton: Energy Has Larger Role in Foreign Policy

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer | 18 October 2012

Washington — The need to maintain safe, reliable and adequate energy supplies will be an increasing priority in U.S. foreign policy of the 21st century, said Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton October 18 in what was billed as an important address on energy diplomacy.

“Energy is an issue of wealth and power, which means it can be both a source of conflict and cooperation,” Clinton said, calling this era a time of “profound change” in global energy markets as demand grows in expanding economies, as competition for supplies becomes more intense, and as new supplies of energy are being discovered and developed.

Speaking on the campus of Georgetown University in Washington, Clinton said the United States will strive to provide international leadership to ensure that all countries receive access to the energy they need for growth. Expanding energy access to 1.3 billion people who currently have no access to electricity is also important for the future.

These ends must be pursued without causing damage to the environment and without energy monopolies.

“Energy monopolies create risks,” said Clinton. “Anywhere in the world when one nation is overly dependent on another for its energy, that can jeopardize its political and economic independence.”

That’s why NATO has identified energy as a key security issue, and why the United States is working to promote equitable distribution routes in Southern Europe for Caspian Sea natural gas, Clinton said.

The U.S. effort to encourage the international community to adopt sanctions to dissuade Iran from nuclear weapons development has been the nation’s most important activity in the realm of energy diplomacy, Clinton said. “Painstaking diplomacy” has been applied to gain broad support for the sanctions, she said, and to make them effective. In response to concerns about oil shortages in the absence of Iranian imports, she said, the United States has boosted its own production by 700,000 barrels of oil per day.

“We’ve been able to put unprecedented economic pressure on Iran while minimizing the burdens on the rest of the world,” she said.

That success also encouraged the United States to help resolve the dispute over oil supplies and oil exporting infrastructure between Sudan and South Sudan. She said

a cooperation agreement has been ratified by the parliaments in each nation, though the situation remains “fragile.”

U.S. efforts in energy diplomacy are making significant progress in the Western Hemisphere in the aftermath of the Summit of the Americas earlier in 2012. Led by Colombia, Clinton said, the initiative is called Connecting the Americas 2022.

“It aims to achieve universal access to electricity by the year 2022 through electrical interconnection in the hemisphere,” Clinton said. The initiative is receiving broad support in the region in its goal to trade and share power through a unified grid.

“By expanding the size of power markets, we can create economies of scale, attract more private investment, lower capital costs and ultimately lower costs for the consumer,” Clinton said.

On a broader scale, a U.N. initiative is leading a campaign to bring electricity to the more than 1 billion now lacking it. Clinton said the goal of Sustainable Energy for All is to achieve universal access by 2030 and double the rate of growth for energy-efficient technologies and the share of renewable technologies as power providers.

The campaign will also urge nations to establish competitive and transparent energy markets to attract more international investments. That will help poor people who pay too much for inadequate and dirty energy supplies such as diesel and charcoal, Clinton said.

These efforts are also consistent with the U.S. Clean Cookstove Campaign, which Clinton launched earlier this year as a route to both improve health and stop indoor pollution that occurs in millions of homes where open fires are used in cooking. Respiratory disease stemming from indoor pollution is estimated to kill 1.6 million to 2 million people each year, most of them women and children.

Great uncertainty still exists in the complex geopolitical influences that will shape energy security, but the importance of the issue is beyond question.

“We have to be involved everywhere in the world,” Clinton said. “The future security and prosperity of our nation and the rest of the world hangs in the balance, and all of us, especially all of you here today, have a stake in the outcome.”

Inside the Department of State, Clinton said, she has created an organization with energy diplomacy as its primary focus. She is also directing embassies worldwide

to become more involved in the issue in every country and build new partnerships to cope with 21st century challenges.

Second Obama-Romney Debate Reflects Americans' Economic Concerns

17 October 2012

Washington — The second presidential debate between former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and President Obama offered the only opportunity for American voters, rather than just a debate moderator, to pose questions to both candidates.

Their chosen topics reflected a U.S. electorate whose main concern is the state of the American economy and employment prospects as the country continues to recover from its worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

CNN's Candy Crowley moderated the October 16 town hall-style debate, held at Hofstra University in New York. The audience consisted of 82 undecided voters who live near the suburban Long Island institution.

The audience was randomly selected by the Gallup Organization, and audience members submitted a question on an index card to Crowley, who chose which voter would get to ask their question.

When Crowley called on first-time voter Jeremy Epstein, he reflected a concern among many younger Americans about their chances of finding a job after finishing their education while also needing to repay student loan debts.

"Mr. President, Governor Romney, as a 20-year-old college student, all I hear from professors, neighbors and others is that when I graduate, I will have little chance to get employment. What can you say to reassure me, but more importantly my parents, that I will be able to sufficiently support myself after I graduate?" Epstein asked.

"Your question is one that's being asked by college kids all over this country," Romney said. The Republican candidate said the solution is to "make it easier for kids to afford college and also make sure that when they get out of college, there's a job."

Romney said, "I know what it takes to create good jobs again," and directed voters to his "five-point plan" that he said would create 12 million new jobs in the United States over the next four years and increase worker take-home pay.

That is "going to help Jeremy get a job when he comes out

of school. It's going to help people across the country that are unemployed right now," he said.

President Obama said he plans to tackle unemployment by encouraging the growth of U.S. manufacturing jobs through measures such as changing the tax code "so we're giving incentives to companies that are investing here in the United States and creating jobs here," and "helping them and small businesses to export all around the world in new markets."

The president also said he wants to ensure that U.S. community colleges are retraining workers to help them find jobs in the current economy and for the future, and to invest in energy sources such as solar and wind power, biofuels and energy-efficient cars. "That's going to help Jeremy get a job," he said.

Other voters asked about rising fuel costs, whether their taxes would increase or they would lose tax deductions, the loss of U.S. jobs to other countries, immigration reform, and the income discrepancy between male and female workers.

On gender pay equity, President Obama pointed to a bill he signed at the beginning of his administration that enforces pay equity for women, and Romney said that while serving as governor, he had taken steps to ensure qualified women would be part of his administration in Massachusetts.

On immigration, Obama repeated his support for comprehensive immigration reform that would include a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, while defending his decision to allow children of those immigrants to apply for visas. Romney criticized the president's inability to pass immigration reform legislation and said he supported pathways for undocumented children to become U.S. permanent residents through service in the U.S. military or other programs.

SUBURBS REFLECT MAJORITY CONCERNS

Lawrence Levy, writing in the Long Island newspaper Newsday October 17, said suburban U.S. voters, such as those who participated in the town hall debate, are critical to any presidential candidate because they tend to be middle-class citizens whose concerns reflect the American population as a whole.

"For 90 often tense and intriguing minutes, Long Islanders had a personal, in-your-face say in what may have been Campaign 2012's pivotal confrontation. They acted as surrogates for millions of people in aging suburbs whose votes will count — and whose education,

infrastructure and other needs are just as great," Levy wrote.

Questions about fuel costs reflect the fact that those in the suburbs "own more cars, drive more miles and experience more highway congestion than other Americans," he wrote.

Regarding the concern over jobs and taxes, Levy pointed out that compared to other Americans, suburbanites are more likely to send their children to college and spend more on education. They have the highest level of home ownership and are more likely to take advantage of tax deductions on their mortgage interest and property taxes.

With many young Americans in particular having difficulty finding jobs and being forced to return to their parents' homes after college rather than establish themselves independently, Levy said, "Suburban viewers had to especially empathize with ... Jeremy Epstein — and listen carefully for answers" from both presidential hopefuls.

The third and final presidential debate before Election Day on November 6, this one focused on foreign affairs, is scheduled for October 22 at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida.

U.S. Pledges Continued Support for Global Agriculture

By MacKenzie C. Babb | Staff Writer | 16 October 2012

Washington — The United States will contribute up to \$475 million to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), promising to give \$1 for every \$2 committed by other donors.

Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner announced the additional U.S. support for GAFSP October 12 during the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Annual Meetings in Tokyo.

"The United States is demonstrating once again its commitment to lead the global fight against hunger and malnutrition," Geithner said at an event co-hosted by Japan and the World Bank.

The secretary called on donors from around the world to join in strengthening the GAFSP with additional financial support. Japan and South Korea responded by each pledging \$30 million at the event. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation also announced its intention to contribute additional resources.

"By investing in GAFSP, we will mobilize funding from a diverse range of sources and set into motion innovative

programs that will help communities become more self-sufficient, farmers increase their productivity, and families climb out of poverty," Geithner said, according to an October 15 Treasury Department news release.

The release by department spokeswoman Kara Alaimo said the United States spearheaded the creation of GAFSP in the wake of the 2007–2008 food price crisis to help the world's poorest farmers grow and earn more so they can lift themselves out of poverty. The program is already delivering results by supporting both public and private investments in agriculture, providing critical support in 18 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, the release said.

In Sierra Leone, for example, GAFSP financing has underwritten the delivery of improved extension services to farmers to help them boost yields in staple crops. The fund also has financed the rehabilitation of 250 kilometers of rural roads in Togo to better connect farmers to local markets, and has provided 18,000 farmers with better access to improved seed varieties and fertilizer.

"With nearly 1 billion chronically hungry people around the planet, there is a strong moral reason for investing in agriculture," Treasury's Alaimo said. "But there is good economic reason as well."

The department said investments in agriculture have been shown to be two to four times more effective at reducing hunger and poverty than investments in any other sector.

GAFSP is part of President Obama's broader food security initiative, Feed the Future. The Obama administration has made strengthening food security around the world a U.S. development priority.

Rice Welcomes Somalia's Historic Political Transition

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer | 16 October 2012

Washington — After many difficult years, Somalia has had its first peaceful transfer of power in decades, and U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Susan Rice says developments such as its new provisional constitution and a newly elected speaker and president have inspired hope among Somalis "for the first time in many years."

"Among Somalis and the international community alike, pervasive despair has turned to cautious optimism as Somalia enters an historic new phase of national development," Rice said October 16 at a United Nations Security Council debate on Somalia.

"These promising developments have come through Somali-led efforts and are nothing short of remarkable," she said.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was elected by the Somali parliament September 10 to replace former President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, and he has "outlined his vision for inclusive, broad-based governing institutions in Somalia," Rice said, as well as appointed Prime Minister-designate Abdi Farah Shirdon Saaid.

"We hope the Prime Minister-designate will work closely and collaboratively with President Hassan Sheikh and the parliament to improve governance and security in Somalia through inclusive, transparent and representative processes and institutions," she said, adding that the country's "long-term stability and development demand it."

Rice applauded the Somali peoples' "hard work and profound sacrifice," as well as the partnership between Somali security forces, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and other African allies, without whom Somalia's dramatically improved security situation "would not be where it is today."

Extremist al-Shabaab insurgents were driven from the city of Kismayo, their last stronghold, in late September, but Rice warned that the group "remains a threat," as demonstrated by its September 21-22 attacks in the capital, Mogadishu.

"We need to maintain focus on improving the security situation in Somalia and continue to reinforce AMISOM and Somalia's capacity to root out al-Shabaab," she said. She urged the international community to help by providing equipment, salaries, infrastructure, logistical support and support for regional training efforts.

Rice said the United States has supported Somalia's security sector with more than \$131 million in contributions to build its capacity, as well as more than \$429 million for training, equipment and logistical support to AMISOM and \$225 million to support the U.N. Support Office for the African Union peacekeeping mission (UNSOA).

She said sustainable security for the Somali people depends on the leaders providing "timely and visible benefits to Somalis in recently liberated areas," including the establishment of police forces and courts, increased access to food and water, health care, education and economic opportunity. She also called on Somalia's new leadership to take "urgent steps to tackle corruption."

Somalia and neighboring countries continue to suffer

from a humanitarian crisis. Rice said more than 2 million Somalis face an acute food security crisis and 1.3 million are still internally displaced. She added that in 2012, there were more than 60,000 new refugee arrivals, bringing the total number of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa to more than 1 million.

The United States has contributed more than \$1.2 billion in humanitarian assistance to the Horn of Africa region since 2011. Rice said the international community needs to sustain the humanitarian response, calling for strong support for the \$1.16 billion U.N. Consolidated Appeal for Somalia.

Nobel Prizes for 2012 Recognize Five Americans

By Mark Trainer | Staff Writer | 15 October 2012

Washington — The 2012 Nobel Prizes recognized five Americans for groundbreaking work in the fields of physics, chemistry and economics.

David J. Wineland of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the University of Colorado shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with Serge Haroche of France for their work in observing the behavior of individual quantum systems. Wineland's prize-winning work involves holding charged ions in electric fields and using laser beams to manipulate them. Most of Wineland's work in this area has derived from the goal of creating more accurate clocks.

Alvin Roth of Harvard University and Lloyd Shapley of the University of California, Los Angeles, won the Nobel Prize in Economics "for the theory of stable allocations and the practice of market design," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said. The two men's work is in the field of matching theory, a mathematical framework for devising mutually beneficial connections. Their work has far-ranging practical applications that include the assignment of new doctors to hospitals, students to schools, and human organs for transplant to recipients.

Robert J. Lefkowitz of Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, and Brian K. Kobilka of Stanford University in California shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work in understanding how cell receptors help the human body respond to external factors, such as a physical threat, on the cellular level.

The Nobel Prizes are administered by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, and have been awarded internationally since 1901. The prize in each field is 8 million Swedish kronor, or about \$1.2 million. The prize is named for its founder, Alfred Nobel, a Swedish chemist, engineer and armaments manufacturer.

Federal Reserve Supports U.S., Global Recovery

By MacKenzie C. Babb | Staff Writer | 15 October 2012

Washington — The U.S. central bank is taking extra steps to support the country's "frustratingly slow" economic recovery, says Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke.

"The Federal Reserve is providing additional monetary accommodation to achieve its dual mandate of maximum employment and price stability," Bernanke said October 14. "This policy not only helps strengthen the U.S. economic recovery, but by boosting U.S. spending and growth, it has the effect of helping support the global economy as well."

Speaking to the International Monetary Fund-World Bank Annual Meetings in Tokyo, the chairman said his board is working to respond to economic headwinds such as a weak housing market, tight credit conditions, fiscal contraction at all levels of government and concerns about the medium-term economic outlook.

"In this environment, households and businesses have been quite cautious in increasing spending," he said. "Accordingly, the pace of economic growth has been insufficient to support significant improvement in the job market; indeed, the unemployment rate, at 7.8 percent, is well above what we judge to be its long-run normal level."

Bernanke said the global economic outlook also presents challenges, including financial strains in Europe and slower growth in emerging market economies.

Looking ahead, he said the Federal Open Market Committee, the central bank's policymaking arm, projects that the U.S. economy will continue to recover at a moderate pace in coming quarters as the unemployment rate gradually declines. The committee expects that inflation is likely to run at or below the goal of 2 percent during the next few years, depending largely on the strength of the global economic recovery.

To support U.S. growth, the committee has said it will maintain an exceptionally low federal funds rate, the rate banks are charged for overnight loans, through late 2014. The Federal Reserve will also purchase long-term Treasury securities and sell short-term ones to help depress long-term yields.

Bernanke said that in light of its concerns about the slow pace of progress in reducing unemployment and the downside risks to the economic outlook, the committee is prepared to take further action to promote a stronger economic recovery and sustained improvement in labor

market conditions in the context of price stability.

U.S. "Will Not Wait" to Help Syrian Opposition, Rice Says

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer | 15 October 2012

Washington — Syria's opposition has grown stronger despite Bashar al-Assad's "merciless assault" on the Syrian people and his attempts to cow them into submission, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Susan Rice told members of the U.N. Security Council October 15.

Rice said the United States "will not wait" for all of the Security Council members to "get on the right side of history" following three U.S.-backed U.N. efforts to increase international pressure on the Assad regime that were defeated by vetoes.

"Together with our allies, we're supporting the opposition as it moves toward an inclusive, democratic transition. We're further pressuring the regime, and we are addressing the growing humanitarian needs in the region," she said.

So far, the Obama administration has committed more than \$130 million in food, medical supplies and other lifesaving assistance for Syrians in need. Rice said the United States is also looking for ways to support Syrian efforts to "document serious violations of international law, including indiscriminate bombardment and deliberate targeting of civilians."

Rice said that in the areas controlled by the Syrian opposition, "Syrian citizens are banding together to administer towns, reopen schools and rebuild their economy."

The United States is helping the unarmed civilian opposition to organize in support of the July political transition plan agreed to in Cairo, "with its vision for a democratic, pluralistic Syria where all of its people have a say in how they're governed," she said.

Rice also said the Obama administration is supporting U.N. and Arab League Joint Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi's work to find a "durable solution" to the Syrian crisis.

Syria's political transition from the Assad regime "is not just inevitable — it has already begun," she said.

Echoing President Obama's September 25 remarks to the U.N. General Assembly, Rice said, "The future does not belong to a dictator who massacres his people."

Afghanistan Begins to Assess Climate Change Risks

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer | 15 October 2012

Washington — Afghanistan's national environmental agency is starting to make plans for protecting people and communities who may be vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) launches the undertaking with funding and support from the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Environment Facility, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other international partners.

"The government of Afghanistan is showing a remarkable commitment to working with communities for a landscape approach to dealing with climate change in the country," said Michael Keating, the U.N. Afghanistan resident coordinator, located in Bamyan in the Central Highlands region.

The project also aims to develop Afghan know-how for responding to unexpected natural events.

"We also welcome the opportunity to help Afghan institutions better deal with shocks and hazards, and increase resilience at a decentralized level," Keating said.

UNEP has identified Afghanistan as one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change because of its particular environmental conditions and limited institutional experience in responding to adverse natural events.

Almost 80 percent of the Afghan population works in agriculture, a great proportion of those at the subsistence level, according to a UNEP press release on the undertaking. Much of the farming depends on rivers that flow out of the Central Highlands. Climate change is predicted to cause an increase in temperatures and a decrease in rainfall, both factors that can cause significant crop losses and failures.

Severe droughts in 1998-2006 and 2008-2009 caused severe losses of wheat, rice, maize and potato crops.

"By working with communities, or with people helping people, we in Afghanistan can build in stronger adaption approaches to all our national development plans," said NEPA Director-General Mostapha Zaher.

The adaptation project will be implemented in four locations, according to UNEP: Badakhshan in the northeast, Balkh in the north, and through the Koh-e Baba to Bamyan and Daikundi in the Central Highlands.

A number of activities will be undertaken to develop skills that will improve communities' capabilities to cope with adverse weather events, including water management and use efficiency, land terracing, agroforestry, food security and rangeland management.

The project will also strive to develop Afghan skills in conducting climate-related research, maintaining early-warning systems and community vocational skills to support these projects.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) will be the main source of the \$6 million funding for the climate change initiative. The GEF, the single largest funder of global environment improvements, has supported 2,800 projects in almost 170 countries in its 20-year history.

The United States will provide close to \$130 million to fund GEF in the next year. A Treasury Department proposal for 2013 says the GEF has made substantial contributions to placing 10 percent of the world's land area under protection, including 1,600 protected areas covering almost 365 million hectares.

U.S., Turkey Seek to Strengthen Security, Economic Ties

15 October 2012

Washington — Secretary Janet Napolitano and other officials from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) held talks in Turkey October 11-12 with their government counterparts and private sector representatives on enhancing information sharing and combating transnational crime while strengthening economic ties.

DHS Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate Rand Beers and Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Alan Bersin accompanied Napolitano on the trip, according to DHS summaries of the trip.

Napolitano met with Deputy Prime Minister Beşir Atalay on October 11 in Ankara to discuss collaboration on effective border management and the facilitation of legitimate travel and trade, while promoting economic prosperity.

In September, DHS established a full-time DHS/U.S. Customs and Border Protection attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara to work with Turkish counterparts to address shared threats.

While in Ankara, Napolitano also met with Minister of Customs and Trade Hayati Yazıcı, Minister of Interior İdris Naim Şahin, Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs

and Communications Binali Yıldırım and General Director of the Turkish National Police Mehmet Kılıçlar, DHS said.

On October 12, Napolitano and Bersin traveled to Istanbul, where they met with Turkish private sector representatives and local business leaders to discuss initiatives to facilitate trade and travel, while strengthening security.

“When we look at the long history of U.S.-Turkish friendship and cooperation, we find a strong foundation on which to build,” said Napolitano. “Both of our nations understand the importance of partnering on multilateral initiatives to strengthen aviation security and protect the global supply chain, which are crucial to economic prosperity in our interconnected world.”

Napolitano delivered remarks at a luncheon hosted by the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Board, underscoring the Department of Homeland Security’s commitment to working closely with Turkish partners to address shared threats while facilitating legitimate trade and travel. In 2011, trade between the United States and Turkey grew by 34 percent, reaching a record high of almost \$20 billion. U.S. exports to Turkey also rose 38 percent, to a total of \$14.6 billion, making Turkey one of the top 25 U.S. export markets.

While in Istanbul, Napolitano and also visited the port of Istanbul, shipping facilities along the Bosphorus, and Turkish Coast Guard and Maritime Authority security operations.

Acting U.S. Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank in June said that U.S.-Turkish commercial relations do not have to be limited to bilateral trade and investment. Working in partnerships, U.S. and Turkish companies can help accelerate economic development and economic growth in the Middle East and North Africa, she told a Turkish business group in Istanbul on June 25.

USAID Asks Students for Ideas to Combat Human Trafficking

15 October 2012

Washington — The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is asking students to come up with new and innovative ways to end modern slavery.

USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah announced the Campus Challenge to Counter Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP) on October 11 at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

Across three phases and through the USAID website

ChallengeSlavery.org, the C-TIP Campus Challenge is designed to increase global awareness about trafficking, inspire activism among students and scholars at colleges and universities worldwide and generate new, creative ideas and solutions to stop human trafficking and help the 20.9 million people around the world are enslaved in sex or labor exploitation, USAID said.

During the first phase from October 11 to November 28 at ChallengeSlavery.org, students will have the opportunity to participate in discussion groups on various trafficking subtopics, host online conversations, and crowdsourcing issues that will frame the problems to be addressed in the next phase.

The contest phase, from November 28 to January 8, 2013, will be open for applications from U.S. and international students proposing innovative technological solutions to advance trafficking-in-persons prevention and protection.

From January 9, 2013, to January 30, 2013, the ChallengeSlavery.org community will be invited to rate the proposals and provide suggestions on how submissions can be improved.

On February 1, 2013, USAID will announce the semifinalists and in the following three weeks, semifinalist proposals will be judged by an expert C-TIP and technologist panel. The winners will be announced at the end of February and will be invited to share their proposals with donors, C-TIP and technology professionals.

Included in the implementation of the USAID’s 2012 C-TIP Policy, and building on President Obama’s speech at the Clinton Global Initiative, USAID policy and programs place a heightened emphasis on innovation, technology and empirical research to help prevent trafficking and provide assistance to victims, USAID said.

USAID said it is partnering with Not for Sale, Slavery Footprint, Free the Slaves and MTV Exit on this project to maximize efforts and inspire millions of people already working on the issue and invite new activists to the cause, ultimately, strengthening the movement to return freedom to the millions of people robbed of their dignity every day.

Highlighting the prevalence of modern-day slavery and human trafficking and combating these ills have been priorities for the United States. One of the primary tools in this battle is the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report issued by the U.S. State Department. The report is the principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. The State Department says the report is also the world’s most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts

and reflects the U.S. government's commitment to global leadership on this key human rights and law enforcement issue.

The report represents an updated, global look at the nature and scope of trafficking in persons and the broad range of government actions to confront and eliminate it. The U.S. government uses the TIP report to engage foreign governments in dialogues to advance anti-trafficking reforms and to combat trafficking and to target resources on prevention, protection and prosecution programs.

In addition, USAID programmed \$163.3 million in C-TIP activities in 68 countries and regional missions between 2001 and 2010 and continues to work around the world.

U.S., China to Consider Sharing Resources During Joint Missions

By Donna Miles | American Forces Press Service | 15 October 2012

This article was originally posted October 12 to the Department of Defense website.

Washington — In what U.S. Pacific Command's logistics chief calls a groundbreaking development, officials from the United States and China plan to meet to discuss sharing logistical resources, including fuel, as they operate together during counterpiracy and humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions.

The United States has officially extended the invitation for a team of senior Chinese logisticians to visit Washington in early 2013 to discuss the possibility of a first-ever logistics cooperation agreement between the two countries, Air Force Brigadier General Mark M. McLeod told American Forces Press Service.

If adopted, the arrangement would enable the United States and China to share fuel, food, supplies and even vessel parts to support their joint operations, he said.

Pacom officials pitched the idea in September during the 41st Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar in Perth, Australia.

The forum of senior logistics and national security officers from Pacific, Asian and Indian Ocean area nations meets annually to exchange information, pursue bilateral and multilateral initiatives and encourage closer regional cooperation. This year, PASOLS participants focused on ways to promote multinational and multiagency logistics collaboration.

Navy Rear Admiral Yang Jianyong, who led the Chinese

delegation at this year's seminar, called the U.S. proposal "a good area for future discussion [and] cooperation," McLeod reported.

Such an arrangement was floated in the past, but didn't get traction because of strained U.S.-Chinese relations.

But the timing could now be right, McLeod said, as both countries begin looking for ways to strengthen their military-to-military relationship. Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Pacom commander Navy Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III recently visited China to promote closer cooperation and collaboration.

Logistics cooperation with China provides a perfect forum for that relationship-building, McLeod said, particularly as China assumes a growing global role. For example, in addition to counterpiracy operations, China periodically deploys its naval hospital ship, the Peace Ark, to provide medical services in other nations.

"As they go from an internal defense-focused military and begin to push off their shores and take on more regional security roles, they are finding that their logistics chains are kind of strained," McLeod said.

PASOLS, and a potential logistics agreement with the United States, offer China an opportunity to learn from the experience of the regional partners it now operates with, he said.

"Based on them reaching out and starting to perform some of these more joint missions that other nations are doing," he said, "we thought this was an opportunity for us to enter into an agreement with them to share resources."

McLeod called the potential agreement a great foundation for other military-to-military cooperation that supports both the United States' and China's national security strategies.

"Obviously, both militaries are interested in regional security. Both militaries are interested in freedom of passage through areas. There are a lot of things going where we share common interests," he said.

"But this is the first time, at least from a logistics standpoint, that we have reached out and they have been very receptive to those ideas," McLeod said. "That is pretty groundbreaking for us."

McLeod called these developments important building blocks toward closer logistics collaboration that enables regional nations to partner together and respond more effectively to natural disasters and other contingencies.

Responses to regional natural disasters and other contingencies will be far better, he said, if the nations understand each other's operations, share basic principles and learn from each other's experiences. "There are things that each of us can bring to the fight that ultimately helps all of us provide support," he said.

McLeod said he will share the lessons from PASOLS with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other regional organizations. "What we are trying to do is operationalize what we do in the theater by branching out to some of these other large organizations," he said.

Ultimately, he hopes to promote sharing arrangements that enable more countries to participate in regional operations. "Many nations have difficulty when they reach beyond their logistics chains and have to go about gathering supplies and equipment," he said.

Setting up an infrastructure so nations can share resources, water, even cybersecurity expertise could help eliminate that roadblock, he said.

But McLeod said he sees particular promise in operationalizing fuel across the theater. "That is an interest area that many, many nations have, from our high-end partners all the way down to our developing partners that are expanding their capabilities as they go forward," he said.

"That helps you not only during operations, when transiting vessels or operating equipment in that [particular] nation, but it [also] can be important when there is a supply interruption because of a typhoon or some other natural disaster," McLeod said. "In essence, you diversify your fuel capabilities so, no matter where you go, you have that capacity."

Thunderbird's "MBA On-Demand" Provides a Global Classroom

By Jeffrey Thomas | Special Correspondent | 12 October 2012

Washington — The Thunderbird School of Global Management, founded in 1946, offers students a highly ranked Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in global management that requires up to five trimesters of full-time on-campus work.

Now, with Thunderbird's relatively new Global MBA On-Demand program, working professionals from around the world have an opportunity to complete a degree in 12, 19 or 36 months with several distance-learning options.

"We do approximately 75 percent of our course work online and 25 percent on ground with each other," said

Alicia Sutton, an American who completed her master's degree through the On-Demand program. "You can keep your job." Most of her classmates had families, she said, so they worked from home." Sutton also worked for Thunderbird in alumni relations.

The online coursework is complemented by four one-week, on-campus seminars in the United States, Switzerland and China.

Sutton said her classmates lived in different countries, including Singapore, Switzerland and Brazil, and worked in virtual teams, adding: "We have some good training in virtual teams. It's always interesting to try to schedule conference calls or meetings with your classmates in Germany when you're in Phoenix. You make it happen and it's really good experience for working in global teams all the time."

Global is a key word at Thunderbird, which asks its students to take a voluntary oath to act with honesty and integrity, to respect the rights and dignity of all people, to strive to create sustainable prosperity worldwide and to oppose all forms of corruption and exploitation. Students are asked to develop a global mindset, to see themselves as global citizens engaged in global entrepreneurship and to become a lifelong part of Thunderbird's global learning network.

Tania Van Ranst, one of Sutton's classmates, is a native of Belgium who also has lived and worked in Japan, the United States and Mexico. The mother of twins, she liked the flexibility the Global MBA On-Demand program offers. "I can take my classes whenever I want and wherever I want. I am not constrained to a fixed schedule," she said.

"I am never sure how long I will be in one country, so a standard going-to-campus schedule could make it impossible for me to finish any program," Van Ranst said.

"Also, since the world is becoming more and more global, it is important for future executives to learn to coordinate different teams that could virtually be located anywhere on this globe."

Van Ranst thinks the trips to study regional business environments make the On-Demand program special. She likes that 12 different nationalities were represented in her group and that most of her classmates had been abroad. She recalled her classmates as "a great diverse group" of students who could all "relate to one another somehow."

Celso Misaki, another classmate, lives and works in Brazil. Like the other students, he found the online aspect of the program has some important advantages: "You can

apply what you learn in your job; you can discuss real cases in the class, as you are immersed in your job; you do not have to leave your job while you get a top MBA."

José Luis Mejia Amero had already earned an MBA from IPADE, the top-ranked Mexican business school, and works as a marketing director in Mexico at American Express. "But I wanted to have a broader, more global perspective of business management," he said.

Mejia, also part of Sutton's class, felt the On-Demand program was the "ideal alternative" for him. "Every subject is covered with a global perspective," he said. "The program is on-demand, so I didn't need to leave my current job or move to a different city. Most importantly, I could balance work, travel, family and school in a seamless way."

What was the most important aspect of his Thunderbird learning experience?

"Working with people from around the world, from very different cultures, is a fantastic experience," Mejia said. "Also, the professors have a great combination of theoretical knowledge and work experience that enriches the program."

Sutton believes the program benefits greatly from the fact that the students are also practicing managers. "My classmates work for Boeing, Intel, Johnson and Johnson, Unilever, Amazon.com, IBM, GE, SAP — really big Fortune 500 companies," she said. "We bring in that connection to those corporations to the school, which is good for Thunderbird."

Scientists Theorize Global Sunblock Could Lessen Warming

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer | 12 October 2012

Washington — Blocking the sunlight that reaches Earth might be another means to lessen the effects of climate change, some U.S. scientists theorize.

Scientists backed by the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) are testing the idea with computer projections on future climate change.

"It's a what-if scenario analysis," said Steven Smith with the Joint Global Change Research Institute, supported by PNNL. "The conditions under which policymakers might want to manage the amount of sun reaching Earth depends on how sensitive the climate is to atmospheric greenhouse gases, and we just don't know that yet."

Scientists gauge climate sensitivity by measuring how

many degrees the atmosphere warms as the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) increases. If the climate warms 3 degrees Celsius when CO₂ doubles, Smith calls that a medium sensitivity, which would probably not merit attempts to block sunlight.

"It's less likely we'd need solar radiation management at all," he said in a PNNL press release. If a doubling of CO₂ caused a greater temperature increase, 4.5 degrees C for instance, Smith said blocking sunlight would become a stronger option.

"We're going to need to use solar radiation management if we want to limit temperature changes," with a greater level of climate sensitivity, Smith said.

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, which trap heat in the atmosphere and stop their venting into space, remains a priority even if a reasonable method of managing solar radiation is devised.

"Solar radiation management doesn't eliminate the need to reduce emissions," Smith said. "We do not want to dim sunlight over the long term — that doesn't address the root cause of the problem and might also have negative regional effects. This study shows that the same conditions that would call for solar radiation management also require substantial emission reductions in order to meet the climate goals set by the world community," said Smith.

Besides, if solar radiation management and emissions reductions are both employed, the degree of sun-blocking necessary would be lessened, Smith said.

"Much of the current research has examined solar radiation management that is used as the sole means of offsetting a doubling of carbon dioxide concentrations," Smith said. "What we showed is that when coupled with emissions reductions, only a fraction of that amount of 'solar dimming' will be needed. This means that potential adverse impacts would be that much lower."

What those impacts could be is not well understood at this point, so this entire proposition is still in the research phase, Smith said. The potential methods to employ solar radiation management might include shading the Earth from the sun's heat by brightening clouds, inducing the atmospheric cooling caused by volcanic eruptions or putting mirrors into space to deflect sunlight from reaching the Earth.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>)